

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of detecting the presence of one or more specific anti-Major Histo-Compatibility Complex (MHC) antibodies in a sample comprising contacting said sample with one or more recombinant MHC molecules which each bind to a specific MHC antibody, if present in said sample, and detecting the binding or absence of binding of said antibodies to said recombinant MHC molecules, wherein said one or more specific antibodies are each specific for a particular MHC allele.

2. (Currently amended) A method of detecting the presence of one or more specific anti-Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) antibodies in a sample comprising contacting said sample with one or more recombinant HLA molecules which each bind a specific HLA antibody, if present in said sample, and detecting the binding or absence of binding of said antibodies to said recombinant HLA molecules, wherein said one or more specific antibodies are each specific for a particular HLA allele.

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein said MHC or HLA molecule is a Class I MHC or HLA molecule.

4. (Previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said recombinant MHC or HLA molecule comprises a heavy chain and wherein the heavy chain of said MHC or HLA molecule is recombinant.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the antibodies which are detected are IgG, IgM or IgA.

6. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein said recombinant MHC or HLA molecule comprises a heavy chain, β_2 -microglobulin and peptide.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said peptide is derived from HIV, HCV or an influenza virus.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the MHC molecules are attached to a solid support.

10. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the HLA molecules are attached to a solid support.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said solid support is a spherical bead.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said solid support is a nitrocellulose strip.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 or 10 wherein said solid support is an ELISA plate.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the recombinant MHC is synthesized in a prokaryotic expression system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the recombinant HLA is synthesized in a prokaryotic expression system.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the sample is a body fluid sample.

17. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the bound antibody is detected by an immunosorbent assay using an antibody conjugated to a signaling means.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A kit comprising at least the following components:

(a) one or more recombinant MHC molecules; and

(b) a means for detecting anti-MHC antibodies.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) A kit as claimed in claim 20 which further comprises a solid support together with means for attachment of the MHC molecules.

23. (Previously presented) A kit as claimed in claim 20 wherein the means for detecting said anti-MHC antibodies

comprises an antibody which binds to the complex formed between said MHC molecules and naturally occurring antibodies to said molecules.

24. (Previously presented) A kit as claimed in claim 22, wherein said solid support is a spherical bead.

25. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein said recombinant MHC or HLA molecule is in the form of a fusion protein.

26. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein said recombinant MHC or HLA molecule is fused to a means of immobilization.

27. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein said means of immobilization is biotin.

28. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said recombinant MHC or HLA molecule carries a label or signalling means for detection.